

Field Trip Packet

George Washington Carver –
The Plant Doctor
Grades K- 1

George Washington Carver – The Plant Doctor

S3, S4 GL.1,1.3, 2.3

Dr. Carver's "hands- on" philosophy of education:

"The thoughtful educator realizes that a very large part of the child's education must be gotten outside of the four walls designated as classroom. He also understands that the most effective and lasting education is the one that makes the pupil handle, discuss and familiarize himself with the real things about him..." (introduction to 1910 bulletin #18 entitled *Nature Study and Gardening for Rural Schools*)

The Plant Doctor field trip at George Washington Carver National Monument is designed to help students learn about nature at the park. The program will guide students to an exploration of the park grounds. This program consists of four components:

- Nature Hike on the Carver Trail (ranger- led)
- Nature Classroom Activity (ranger- led)
- Discovery area interactive exhibits (teacher- led)
- Picnic

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

To prepare your students for their field trip, choose from the following activities, as appropriate for your class:

- Watch *The Boyhood of Carver*, the 12- minute video (if available)
- Vocabulary List
- Read *George Washington Carver* by Martha E.H. Rustad (ISBN: 0- 7368- 0996- 1)
- Create Nature Notebooks (for use during the field trip)
- Create paper binoculars (for use during the field trip)

ON THE DAY OF YOUR VISIT

Report to the Visitor Center, receive your schedule, and organize your group(s). Students should be placed in **pairs**. A park ranger will be assigned to each group and will distribute backpacks to each pair of students. Be sure to bring the Nature Notebooks and binoculars.

AFTER YOUR VISIT

To reinforce the concepts covered during the field trip choose from the following activities, as appropriate for your class:

- Draw a picture and tell a story about the field trip to George Washington Carver National Monument.
- Talk about your plant pressing and how it is like George Washington Carver's plant pressings (his collection).
- Make a new page in the Nature Notebook. Write: "George wondered about..." "I wonder about..."
- Have the class make a picture and send it to the park.

George Washington Carver National Monument

Field Trip Information Sheet

- **ARRIVAL**

When arriving at George Washington Carver National Monument, **please send one teacher into the visitor center front desk to check in.** You may return your video (if applicable) at this time and pick up your group's schedule, which has been prepared in advance by a park ranger. You may stop your bus in front of the visitor center but please leave your group onboard until you receive instructions from a park ranger concerning the starting location for your program. Bus parking is located on the south side of the parking lot.

- **SCHEDULING**

Your group should be ready to begin at the scheduled time (see group reservation form). Please allow enough time for a restroom break before your program begins. **A late arrival necessitates adjustment of educational programming.**

- **CHAPERONES**

Teachers and chaperones should be with each group of students at all times and in all park facilities. Please provide 1 chaperone for every 5-10 students.

- **PICNIC FACILITIES**

Lunches may be eaten in the picnic area. There are no covered or indoor picnic facilities so lunches must be eaten on the bus during inclement weather. A soda machine is available. Food, drinks, and chewing gum are not allowed inside park facilities.

- **MUSEUM STORE**

The museum store, located inside the visitor center, is operated by the Carver Birthplace District Association, the park's non-profit, cooperating association. Sales benefit the park's *free* education programs. See enclosed "Top Ten" list for selections and price ranges. Your group will be allowed time to browse in the sales area, if desired, during your discovery area time. Please provide the appropriate number of chaperones in the gift shop.

- **SAFETY NOTE (Peanut Allergies)**

Peanuts are in use at George Washington Carver National Monument. Peanut growing kits, raw peanuts, and peanut plants may be found at the park. Please notify parents and students of this safety issue.

There is no charge for park programs. We hope you enjoy your visit.

George Washington Carver National Monument
Diamond, MO

Directions to George Washington Carver National Monument

From Interstate 44:

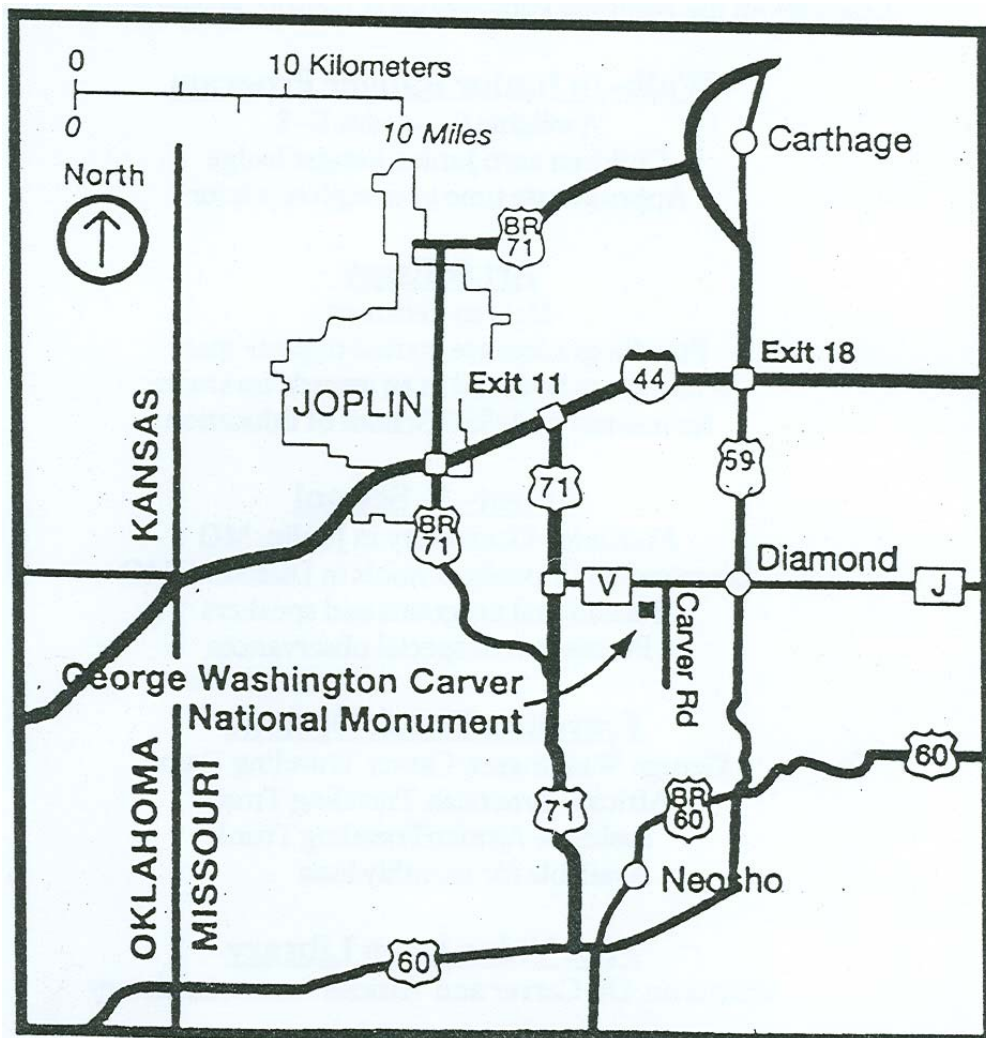
From Exit 11A on I-44, take US 71 south to Highway V. Go east 4 miles, then south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on Carver Road.

From Exit 18A on I-44, take Highway 59 south to Diamond. Go west 2 miles on Highway V, then south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on Carver Road.

From Neosho, MO:

Take US 71 north to Highway V. Go east 4 miles, then south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on Carver Road.

Take Highway 59 north to Diamond. Go west 2 miles on Highway V, then south $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on Carver Road.



Top Ten Things Kids Love in the Museum Store

10. Post Card - 25 ¢
9. Pencil - 30 ¢
8. US Constitution and other historical documents \$1.00 - \$1.95
7. Yo-Yo - \$2.50
6. Puddle Jumper - \$2.50
5. Jacob's Ladder - \$3.95
4. A Scholastic book on George Washington Carver - \$5.95
3. A Poster of George Washington Carver - \$3.50
2. Peanut Growing Kit - 50 ¢
1. Dog Tag - \$3.00

All prices subject to change



The sales area is sponsored by the Carver Birthplace District Association. Proceeds from all purchases provide direct support for the educational programs at George Washington Carver National Monument.

George Washington Carver National Monument
Diamond, MO

Nature Notebook Directions

Students will use their Nature Notebooks throughout the Plant Doctor field trip. Notebooks need to be constructed before the day of the field trip. Make these as simple or as fancy as you choose!

COVER: each notebook should have a sturdy cover (cardstock, cardboard, construction paper, etc.). Students should decorate the covers and place their names on the front.

INSIDE: each should have about 10 pages of paper. An easy way to make these is to lay a piece of cardstock on a table and then 5 sheets of paper. Fold these in half vertically and staple twice in the middle. You should have a booklet measuring 8 ½ X 5 ½.

TITLE PAGE: Help students make the first page the title page. It should read:

The Plant Doctor Field Trip

George Washington Carver National Monument

Diamond, Missouri

Date: _____

Name: _____

Binoculars Instructions

Have students bring to class the cardboard tubes from empty toilet tissue rolls. Each student needs two. Cover them with colorful construction paper to connect the rolls, and then decorate as desired. Use a hole- punch and make a hole in the outer sides of each tube. Secure yarn or ribbon in the holes, making a neck strap so students can wear their binoculars around their necks. Bring these along on the field trip for your students to explore nature with their eyes, just like George!

Vocabulary: Nature Words

To prepare for the field trip, choose from the following words for students to spell or act out. Do the students think they will see these things on the field trip?

1. Creek – a small body of moving water that often travels through fields and woods
2. Curious – to be eager to learn something new
3. Habitat - the place where plants and animals find food air, water, and shelter
4. Harmful – to hurt something or to cause damage
5. Nature – the world with all of its living and non- living things
6. Organism – any living thing, whether plant or animal
7. Plant Doctor – George Washington Carver’s childhood nickname; someone who is able to take good care of plants
8. Pond – a body of water formed by rain or spring water, usually held in by a pond bank
9. Spring – cold, underground water that comes to the surface; often a water source for homesteaders like the Carver family